



Old Globe Theatre | Cassius Carter Centre Stage | Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

News

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Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*
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THE OLD GLOBE PRESENTS WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *TRYING*

RICHARD SEER DIRECTS TOUCHING NEW PLAY BY JOANNA MCCLELLAND GLASS
BASED ON PLAYWRIGHT'S REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES WORKING
WITH FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present *Trying*, by Joanna McClelland Glass, directed by Richard Seer, playing in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage **April 15 through May 21** (press opening: April 20).

Inspired by the playwright's real-life experiences, *Trying* deals with the relationship between the brilliant and irascible Judge Francis Biddle, former U.S. Attorney General and Chief Justice for the Nuremberg Trials, and his new young secretary Sarah Schorr. After a series of disappointing failures with secretaries, Judge Biddle, who is 81 and in failing health, is apprehensive when the young and inexperienced Ms. Schorr arrives to work with him in his small office over the garage of his Washington D.C. home. Sarah is impressed by Judge Biddle's formidable memory of his experiences throughout the first three-quarters of the 20th century. His ancestry and his position in the centers of American power contrast strongly with her humble beginnings in Saskatchewan. But Sarah is a feisty and plain-spoken young woman who is determined to work through Biddle's argumentative nature, and when she feels threatened by his imperious manner and bullying she stands up for herself and eventually becomes a respected and valuable helpmate. *Trying* is a funny and bittersweet look at the healing power of companionship and a meaningful search through the slow decline of age.

The cast of *Trying* features Globe Associate Artist **Jonathan McMurtry** as Judge Biddle and Globe/University of San Diego MFA graduate **Christine Marie Brown** as Sarah Schorr.

The production team for *Trying* includes Richard Seer, director; Alan Muraoka, scenic design; Charlotte Devaux, costume design; Chris Rynne, lighting design; Paul Peterson, sound design; and Esther Emery, stage manager.

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Tickets for *Trying* go on sale Sunday, March 26 and are available at (619) 23-GLOBE, on the Globe website at www.TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the Globe Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Ticket prices range from \$19 to \$56.

Joanna McClelland Glass was born in in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Her works have been produced across North America, in England, Australia, Ireland and Germany. As an actor she won a prize at the Dominion Drama Festival and went to study and act in the United States. In 1972 her one-act plays *Canadian Gothic* and *American Modern* were first produced. Two of her plays, *To Grandmother's House We Go* and *Play Memory* have reached Broadway (the latter was directed by Harold Prince, received a Tony nomination). Her more recent play, *If We Are Women*, has played in several regional theatres across Canada, including the National Arts Centre and has had several American productions. Her play, *Yesteryear*, was also produced in several Canadian theatres in 1998 and recently at the Ottawa Little Theatre. Glass has written two novels, and in 1998 her screenplay, *Woman Wanted*, was produced starring Holly Hunter, Michael Moriarty, and Kiefer Sutherland. Her latest play, *Trying*, is inspired by her real-life experience as personal secretary to former U.S. Attorney General Judge Francis Biddle.

Richard Seer directed The Old Globe's acclaimed productions of *Vincent in Brixton*, *Fiction*, *Blue/Orange*, *All My Sons*, *Da* and *Old Wicked Songs*. He has served as Director of the Globe/University of San Diego Master of Fine Arts Program since 1993. He has directed or performed in over 60 productions at theaters in this country and Great Britain, including The Goodman Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Stratford Shakespeare Festival, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Huntington Theater Company, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the Sybil Thorndike Repertory Theatre in England, among others. In 1985, he received Boston's prestigious Kahn Award for directing, and became Associate Artistic Director of the American Festival Theater in 1988. Other recent directorial credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* for Shakespeare Santa Cruz, *Misalliance* and *The Man Who Came To Dinner* for CenterRep in Walnut Creek. Prior to his current appointment at the Globe, he was an Associate Professor of acting and directing at Boston University's School for the Arts, where he received his Master of Fine Arts degree in directing a decade earlier.

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The internationally-acclaimed, Tony® Award-winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theatres in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 70 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Full Monty and Damn Yankees, have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theatres across the country.

During this 70th Anniversary Winter Season, the Globe is presenting two fascinating world premieres, including Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life, an exciting musical biography of the acclaimed actress/singer/dancer, as well as THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN', a thrilling new work by Twyla Tharp set to the music of the legendary Bob Dylan. Under the leadership of Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.

THE OLD GLOBE
TRYING
FACT SHEET

WHAT: ***Trying***
 By Joanna McClelland Glass

WHEN: **April 15 – May 21, 2006; *Press Opening: Thursday, April 20 at 8pm***
Performances: – Sun/Tue/Wed at 7pm
 – Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm
 – Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2pm

WHERE: Cassius Carter Centre Stage
 The Old Globe, Balboa Park

WHO: Director: Richard Seer Scenic Design: Alan Muraoka
 Lighting Design: Chris Rynne Costume Design: Charlotte Devaux
 Sound Design: Paul Peterson Stage Manager: Esther Emery

 Cast: Jonathan McMurtry *Judge Biddle*
 Christine Marie Brown *Sarah Schorr*

BACKGROUND:

“I’m fairly certain this is my final year to live,” proclaims Judge Biddle, former attorney general under Frank D. Roosevelt, to his new secretary. But Sarah is a feisty and plain-spoken girl who is determined to work through Biddle’s irritable and argumentative nature. Based on the playwright’s own real-life experiences, *Trying* is a funny and bittersweet look at the healing power of companionship and a meaningful search through the slow decline of age.

TICKETS: \$19 – \$56

BOX OFFICE: (619) 23-GLOBE

Hours: –Mondays noon to 6pm
 –Tuesday thru Saturdays: noon to 8:30pm
 –Sundays: noon to 7:30pm
 –Visa, American Express, MasterCard, Discover Card accepted